

ancient

very old

archeologist

a person who studies human life in the past by looking at artifacts (tools, pots) left by that group of people

Aztecs

native people of central Mexico

chinampas

small island gardens

civilization

a group of people living in a certain way in a particular place and time

colony

an area that is ruled by a government in another place or country

conquered

to take over an area  
and a group of people

conquistadors

people who conquered  
or took over another  
group of people

customs

the way a group of  
people lives (food,  
beliefs, traditions)

descendants

the people who were  
born after you (your  
children, grandchildren)

emperor

ruler of an empire

empire

an area that is ruled by  
an emperor

glyphs

picture symbols

priest

the leader of a church

Mesoamerica

the area in parts of  
Mexico and Central  
America

Montezuma

the leader of the Aztec  
people

noble

a person from a high  
ranking family

sacrifice

to give up or kill for  
something